

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 STR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00
OES-07 CU-04 DLOS-09 INT-05 HA-05 AF-10 EA-10
/162 W

-----041044 030344Z /41

R 021552Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3461
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 17559

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EEC, ECIN
SUBJ: PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION: REPORT TO THE
EUROPEAN COUNCIL BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 17471; (B) 76 THE HAGUE 6629; (C)
BRUSSELS 17056

1. MISSION HAS OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE A COPY OF THE
REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO THE
DECEMBER 5-6 EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONCERNING PROGRESS DURING
THE PAST YEAR TOWARD MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE
TINDEMANS REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION (REF A). THIS PAPER--
AND A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION FROM THE EC COMMISSION--
ARE THE FIRST OF WHAT ARE ENVISAGED AS ANNUAL BALANCE
SHEETS ON TINDEMANS REPORT IMPLEMENTATION, AS REQUESTED
BY THE DECEMBER 1976 EUROPEAN COUNCIL (REF B). MAJOR
CONCLUSIONS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' REPORT ARE OUTLINED
BELOW.

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2. INTERNAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS:

THE REPORT NOTES THAT, DESPITE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DIFFICULTIES AND GROWING DIVERGENCE OF MEMBER STATE
NATIONAL ECONOMIES, THE COMMUNITY ACHIEVED PROGRESS IN A
NUMBER OF FIELDS IN 1977. THE REPORT SPECIFICALLY CITES:

AGREEMENT ON A FORMULA FOR COMPLETING
COMMUNITY "OWN RESOURCES" SYSTEM WITH A SHARE OF MEMBER
STATE VAT REVENUES;

--REEXAMINATION OF THE REGIONAL FUND AND OF THE
FUNCTIONING OF THE SOCIAL FUND;

--THE BOOST TO THE EC'S RESEARCH POLICY RESULTING FROM
AGREEMENT ON THE COMMUNITY'S 1977-1980 RESEARCH PROGRAM
AND THE DECISION TO CONSTRUCT THE JOINT EUROPEAN TORUS;

--PROGRESS TOWARD DEVELOPING A FISHING REGIME IN THE
EC'S 200-MILE ZONE FOR BOTH COMMUNITY AND THIRD COUNTRY
FISHING ACTIVITY;

--PROGRESS, IN THE FACE OF "GRAVE CRISIS", TOWARD
DELINEATION OF COMMUNITY INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN THE STEEL,
TEXTILE, AND SHIPBUILDING SECTORS; AND

--PROGRESS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE LONG-TERM COMMUNITY OBJECTIVE
OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, THE REPORT EMPHASIZES
RECENT ACTION BY THE EC COUNCIL TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES
FOR GREATER COORDINATION OF MEMBER STATE MONETARY AND
BUDGETARY POLICIES AND OF SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM CREDIT
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MECHANISMS. THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE COUNCIL ALSO
ADOPTED GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF MEMBER STATE
BUDGETS IN 1978 AND APPROVED THE FOURTH EC MEDIUM TERM
ECONOMIC PROGRAM. THE REPORT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE
COMMISSION, FOR ITS PART, HAS SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FOR A
NEW COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT AND FOR RELAUNCHING
THE DRIVE TOWARD ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION.

4. EXTERNAL RELATIONS:

THE REPORT CITES PROGRESS IN BOTH EXTERNAL RELATIONS
SECTORS: POLITICAL COOPERATION AND MATTERS WITHIN THE
SCOPE OF THE ROME TREATY.

5. ON THE POLITICAL COOPERATION FRONT, THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THE FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE EC-NINE:

--DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON POSITION FOR THE LAGOS
ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE;

--INSTITUTIONALIZED CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE NINE AT
THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

--CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON POSITIONS AND CLOSE
COORDINATION ON INITIATIVES AT THE BELGRADE CSCE MEETING;

--EXPRESSION OF COMMON VIEWPOINTS ON IMPORTANT
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE JUNE 29
EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST;

--AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO DEFINE AND ADOPT A
STRICTER COMMON ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA, AIMED AT
CONVINCING SOUTH AFRICA TO ABANDON ITS APARTHEID POLICY,
WITH EMPHASIS ON CONCRETE INITIATIVES (SUCH AS THE CODE
OF CONDUCT FOR EC BUSINESSES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA);

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ABLE TO CONVEY COMMON POSITIONS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES TO
GOVERNMENTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES;

--CONTINUATION OF REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THE UNITED
STATES AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES (REF C); AND

--CONTINUED PROGRESS IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO TREATY MATTERS, THE REPORT SINGLES
OUT:

--THE BEGINNING OF DIRECT FISHERY TALKS WITH EAST
EUROPEAN STATES WHICH HAD HITHERTO REFUSED TO DEAL WITH

THE COMMUNITY (USSR, POLAND, AND THE GDR);

--OPENING OF MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE
EC AND CEMA;

--BEGINNING OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE ASEAN STATES;
AND
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--PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD AN EC/PRC TRADE
AGREEMENT.

7. COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS:

THE REPORT CITES THE FOLLOWING STEPS TOWARD STRENGTHENING
EC INSTITUTIONS:

--AGREEMENT BY THE EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN JUNE
1977 ON A DOCUMENT DEFINING THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONING
OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND ESTABLISHING DECISION-MAKING
PROCEDURES FOR THAT BODY;

--ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORMAL PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS REVIEW THE WORK OF THE SPECIALIZED EC
COUNCILS FOUR TIMES ANNUALLY;

--ADOPTION OF PROCEDURAL RULES BY THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS AT THEIR MAY 1976 MEETING AT LEEDS CASTLE,
WHICH AIM AT IMPROVED DECISION-MAKING THROUGH A GREATER
ROLE FOR THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY IN DETERMINATION OF EC
COUNCIL AGENDA, A STRONGER ROLE FOR COREPER, AND A
LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN COUNCIL SESSIONS;

--AGREEMENT TO SCHEDULE POLITICAL COOPERATION
DISCUSSIONS DURING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS, THEREBY
WEAKENING THE THEOLOGICAL DISTINCTION WHICH HAD HITHERTO
PREVENTED DISCUSSION OF NON-TREATY SUBJECTS AT THOSE
SESSIONS;

--A "SLIGHT INCREASE" IN RESORT TO COUNCIL MAJORITY
VOTING; AND

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--ACTION BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES TO TAKE
NECESSARY MEASURES FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE SEPTEMBER

1976 DECISION ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS.

8. THE REPORT WARNS THAT EFFORTS TOWARD STRENGTHENING EC INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT.

9. A CITIZENS' EUROPE:

THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THE FOLLOWING EC ACTIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR AIMED AT PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF CITIZENS' LIVES:

--ADOPTION IN APRIL 1977 OF A JOINT DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE COUNCIL, THE COMMISSION, AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT;

--AGREEMENT BY THE MARCH 1977 EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON THE CONCEPT OF A EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION; AND

--PROGRESS IN OTHER FIELDS, SUCH AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRESS REPORTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE17559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770448-0898
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712102/aaaadidz.tel
Line Count: 245
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: baddcefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 17471, 76 THE HAGUE 6629
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 107137
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION: REPORT TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS
TAGS: ECIN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/baddcefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009